

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

If you observe or hear unusual or suspicious activity, please don't hesitate to report it to the **Mashpee Police Department at 508-539-1480**. We would rather check into the circumstances and dispel any alarm compared to not being called only to subsequently learn a burglary or theft has occurred.

If a vehicle is involved, please attempt to report the plate number and state of registration. The color of vehicle, make, model and type (2-door or 4-door; pick-up, etc.) is also important information. In addition, note any distinguishing features (dents, bumper stickers, etc.) about the vehicle. Observing and reporting the vehicle's direction of travel is very helpful. If you are mobile and can safely report updated information, it is sometimes critical assistance for responding officers. Reporting how many occupants there are within a vehicle is also important information.

If the subject of the suspicious activity is on foot, physical and clothing descriptions are important. Of course, this information is also beneficial if a subject is within a vehicle but sometimes occupants to vehicles may be partially or fully concealed. A person's height, weight, hair color, hair style, ethnicity and age are useful details. It is understood that all of this information may be in one's better judgment. In addition, determine whether the subject has scars, marks or tattoos. Was the person wearing any jewelry such as necklaces, bracelets or earrings? In terms of clothing, what was the person wearing for trousers or shorts? What type of shirt, sweater or jacket was the person wearing? Was the person wearing a hat? What type of footwear did the person have? Did the person have facial hair and if so, can it be described? If you heard the subject speak, can you describe his or her voice? Did they have an accent?

The most important piece of information for the police is whether or not you observed or heard any weapons involved. If you have reason to believe the subject of the report is probably armed, this information must be articulated to the best of your knowledge. If possible, stay on the phone with the on-duty dispatcher in case any new information develops that may assist responding officers. Or call the police station back if additional information should be reported after terminating your initial call.

Remember, if you hear or witness circumstances which your instincts and better judgment are telling you are suspicious, you should be calling the police department in order for it to be checked out.